



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,006	07/13/2001	Jeffrey D. Frank	M-11679 US	2520
32605	7590	11/02/2005	EXAMINER	
MACPHERSON KWOK CHEN & HEID LLP 1762 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE, SUITE 226 SAN JOSE, CA 95110			NGUYEN, LUONG TRUNG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2612	

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/905,006

Applicant(s)

FRANK ET AL.

Examiner

LUONG T. NGUYEN

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-23 and 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 5-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/17/2005 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 19-23 filed on 10/17/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In re page 11, Applicants argue that Shinpo, Means, and Tsuruta fail to teach or suggest "an interface device that mechanically and electrically connects said camera to said camcorder such that the camcorder selectively records the video images in the visible or non-visible electromagnetic spectrum, with power provided from the camcorder to the camera via the hot shoe" as recited in Claim 19.

In response, regarding claim 19, the Applicants amended claim 19 with limitation "an interface device that mechanically and electrically connects said camera to said camcorder such that the camcorder selectively records the video images in the visible or non-visible electromagnetic spectrum, with power provided from the camcorder to the camera via the hot

Art Unit: 2612

shoe.” The examiner considers that claim 19 as amended still does not distinguish from the combination of Shinpo, Means, and Tsuruta.

Shinpo discloses an interface device (elements 3a-3d, figure 1) that mechanically connects said camera to said camcorder; the camcorder records the video images in the visible electromagnetic spectrum (camcorder 1, figure 1; it is noted that the claim recited the alternatively language “or,” therefore, the examiner considers the limitation “the camcorder records the video images in the visible electromagnetic spectrum” for examining. In addition, claim 19 also recites limitation “a camcorder adapted to capture video images in the visible electromagnetic spectrum;” this indicates that the camcorder does not capture video images in the non-visible electromagnetic spectrum). Shinpo does not disclose the interface device that electrically connects said camera to said camcorder, with power provided from the camcorder to the camera via the hot shoe. However, Tsuruta et al. teaches this feature. Tsuruta et al. teaches lighting apparatus 121 is connected to video camera 122 by a hot shoe socket 123 into which a conductive tab on the lighting apparatus is plugged (figure 12, column 3, lines 38-44). This indicates that the video camera 122 (corresponding to camcorder), which comprises a hot shoe for transmitting electrical power.

In re page 10, Applicants argue that in the present invention, a camera system is disclosed having an infrared camera that is electrically and mechanically coupled via an interface device to a camcorder such that the camcorder selectively records the video images of the camcorder or the video images from the infrared camera.

In response, it should be noted that the feature “*the camcorder selectively records the video images of the camcorder or the video images from the infrared camera*” is not recited in

Art Unit: 2612

claim 19. Instead, claim 19 recited the limitation "the camcorder selectively records the video images in the visible or non-visible electromagnetic spectrum," Shinpo discloses this limitation as discussed above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinpo (JP 06-301096) in view of Means (US 5,589,901) further in view of Tsuruta et al. (US 5,717,460).

Regarding claims 19-20, Shinpo discloses a system, comprising a camera (camera 2, figure 1); a camcorder adapted to capture video images in the visible electromagnetic spectrum (camcorder 1, figure 1); an interface device (3a-3d, figure 1) that mechanically connects said camera to said camcorder.

Shinpo fails to specifically disclose a camera that captures video images in the non-visible electromagnetic. However, Means teaches an infrared camera is used for detecting persons in the dark (column 2, lines 1-19, column 5, lines 55-60). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in the Shinpo by the teaching of Means in order to capture persons or scenes in the dark or when they are not readily visible (column 2, lines 5-15).

Shinpo and Means fail to specifically disclose a camcorder having a hot shoe and an interface device that electrically connects said camera to said camcorder, with power provided from the camcorder to the camera via the hot shoe. However, Tsuruta et al. teaches lighting apparatus 121 is connected to video camera 122 by a hot shoe socket 123 into which a conductive tab on the lighting apparatus is plugged (figure 12, column 3, lines 38-44). This indicates that the video camera 122 (corresponding to camcorder), which comprises a hot shoe for transmitting electrical power. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in Shinpo and Means by the teaching of Tsuruta et al. in order to provide power from a video camera to another device, such as a camera, without using cable.

5. Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinpo (JP 06-301096) in view of Means (US 5,589,901) and Tsuruta et al. (US 5,717,460) further in view of Zhang et al. (US 6,864,911).

Regarding claims 21-23, Shinpo, Means and Tsuruta et al. fail to specifically disclose a power connection as claimed in claim 21, or a video data connection as claimed in claim 22 or a control signal connection as claimed in claim 23. However, Zhang et al. teaches the using communication protocol such as USB protocol, IEEE 1394 protocol to connect two digital cameras (column 7, lines 30-56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device in Shinpo, Means and Tsuruta et al. by the teaching of Zhang et al. in order to provide a data port that communicates data using a well accepted communication

Art Unit: 2612

protocol that consumers are accustomed to working with and digital camera designers are familiar with (column 7, lines 45-48).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1, 5-18 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 18, see examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter as indicated in Office action mailed on 6/17/2005.

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of the record fails to show or fairly suggest an interface device for connecting a camera that captures video images in the non-visible electromagnetic spectrum to a camcorder, the camcorder having a hot shoe, the camera having a connector, comprising a mechanical interconnect, wherein the mechanical interconnect comprises a baseplate having a bottom surface to which the camera is secured; an upper plate connected to and spaced apart from said bottom surface of said baseplate, wherein said upper plate comprises a rear flange extending substantially upward therefrom and having a cutout therethrough; and a mount extending from said baseplate, said mount connectable to the hot shoe.

Claims 5-17 are allowable for the reason given in claim 1.

7. Claim 28 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 2612

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUONG T NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272 - 7315. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NGOCYEN VU can be reached on (571) 272 - 7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 - 8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LN
10/30/05



**LUONG T. NGUYEN
PATENT EXAMINER**